Public issue of BSNL

†416. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to issue equity share of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) in the market;

(b) if so, by when Government is going to take this decision and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has received any Memorandum in protest of issuance of equity shares in the market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Sir, the Government is contemplating to offer part of its Equity shareholding in BSNL by an offer for sale to the public due to the following reasons:

- It will facilitate BSNL to get Navratna status.
- Useful for improving the image of BSNL.
- Will promote growth of BSNL.

The timing of the issue depends on the conditions of the capital market.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Joint Forum of BSNL Unions and Associations of BSNL employees had given notice for indefinite strike from 26.2.2008 against the IPO proposal of BSNL. The advantage of listing of BSNL shares were explained to the representatives of Joint Forum. The proposed strike had been deferred by the Joint Forum.

Special audit of R-Comm

417. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has seen newspaper report captioned "Cautious DoT to check ties of Reliance Communication (R-Comm) special auditor", appearing in Financial Express, New Delhi on the 27th January, 2009;

(b) if so, whether DoT have decided to do a special audit of R-Comm on charges of concealing real revenue from Government;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the procedure being adopted by DoT for short listing of auditors to ensure that auditor have no relationship with other R-Comm companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Yes, Sir. DoT has decided to do a Special Audit of Reliance Communications Ltd.'s Telecom Licensed Companies in terms of Clause 22.5 and 22.6 of USA License Agreement.

(c) M/s. Parakh and Co. have been selected as Auditor to carry out the Special Audit of Reliance Communications Ltd. (Stand alone), Reliance Telecom Ltd. and Reliance Communications Infrastructure Ltd. for the year 2006-07 and 2007-08. The Special Auditor will verify whether there is any evasion of License Fees.

(d) The Auditor has been short listed from the panel of Auditors obtained form C and AG and after obtaining details of Experience in Audit of Companies engaged in Telecom business. To ensure that auditor has not relationship with other R-Comm companies, an undertaking to the effect that the Auditor neither has any professional relationship with M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd. Reliance Telecom Ltd., Reliance Communications Infrastructure Ltd. and other related companies of ADA Reliance Group nor has any professional assignment of these companies, has been obtained.

Problems of call drop in mobile networks

†418. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems of call drop being faced by mobile subscribers;

(b) the time when this came to the notice of Government;

(c) the name of the companies whose subscribers have to face the problem of call drop;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to overcome this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Call drop is one of the network related QoS parameter laid down by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through the Regulation on Quality of Service for Basic and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services, 2000 dated 8th July, 2000 and regulation on Quality of Service for Basic and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services, 2005 dated 1.7.2005 TRAI has been monitoring the performance of the service providers through the quarterly performance monitoring reports (PMRs) against the benchmark of <3% for this parameter. TRAI also periodically appoints independent agencies to assess Quality of Service. Through the PMR and the reports of the independent agencies, call drop in various cellular mobile telephone networks service providers is noted.

(c) The Performance Monitoring Report of the quarter ending September, 2008 reveal that call drop in all the network is within the limit of <3% laid down by TRAI. The performance reported in the PMR is an average figure for the service area as whole.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.